

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 SOE-02 AF-10
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: APRIL 21 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. DAVID K. SHIPLER OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID VANCE AND
GROMYKO SPENT MORE THAN SIX HOURS IN WHAT WERE DESCRIBED
BY AMERICANS AS USEFUL AND CORDIAL NEGOTIATIONS DEVOTED
EXCLUSIVELY TO LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS. "THERE WAS NO
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SIGN WHETHER NEW OFFERS OR COMPROMISES HAD BEEN MADE OR
DIFFERENCES NARROWED," SHIPLER SAID. "BUT FACT THAT OTHER
ISSUES, SUCH AS HORN OF AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, NEUTRON BOMB
AND HUMAN RIGHTS, HAD BEEN LEFT ASIDE SUGGESTED SERIOUS
EFFORT TO MAKE HEAD WAY." SHIPLER NOTED THAT ATMOSPHERE IS
BETTER THIS TIME THAN MARCH 1977, "WITH SOVIET PRESS SOFTEN-
ING ITS ATTACKS ON AMERICAN POLICY AND WITH OFFICIALS, WHO

ARE USUALLY HARD TO SEE, OPENING THEIR DOORS TO AMERICAN REPORTERS."

2. HENRY TREWHITT OF BALTIMORE SUN, ALSO REPORTING FROM MOSCOW, SAID "SOVIET OFFICIALS APPEAR TO EXPECT MORE FROM NEGOTIATIONS THAN THEIR U.S. COUNTERPARTS. AGREEMENT ON SOME DETAILS OF SALT, WITH OTHERS TO BE SETTLED LATER,

COULD ENABLE BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO PROCLAIM SUCCESS IF THEY WANT IT THAT WAY." TREWHITT SAID BOTH GROMYKO AND VANCE TOOK THEIR PRINCIPAL AIDES ON ARMS CONTROL ISSUES WITH THEM TO THEIR MEETINGS IN KREMLIN, BUT FOREIGN MINISTER AND SECRETARY DID ALL ACTUAL NEGOTIATING.

3. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR CORRESPONDENTS DANIEL SOUTHERLAND AND DAVID WILLIS SAID "SOVIETS REMAIN PUZZLED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND ARE APPARENTLY UNWILLING TO SEE LINKAGE BETWEEN PUBLIC CRITICISM OF MOSCOW IN U.S. AND MOSCOW'S OWN BEHAVIOR AT HOME AND ABROAD. 'THEY DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND HOW IT IS POSSIBLE FOR DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT AND DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS TO BE ON SUCH COLLISION COURSE,' COMMENTS ONE WESTERN SOURCE HERE. 'MANY SOVIETS THINK IT'S ALL TRICK -- THAT PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS REALLY AGREE BUT GO THROUGH AN ACT OF DISAGREEING AS WAY TO SAY NO TO MOSCOW.'"

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4. WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER CALLED ON SECRETARY VANCE TO MAKE CLEAR TO SOVIET UNION THAT "ANOTHER MOVE OF KIND WE HAVE SEEN IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA" WOULD BE FATAL TO NEW SALT AGREEMENT AND TO DETENTE. "UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES I DO NOT SEE HOW ANY AGREEMENT COULD POSSIBLY BE RATIFIED AND HOW DETENTE COULD BE POSSIBLE," KISSINGER TOLD INTERNATIONAL RADIO AND TELEVISION SOCIETY. KISSINGER SAID HE HOPES VANCE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN HIS CURRENT MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT A SALT AGREEMENT "SHOULD NOT BE LIGHTLY LINKED" WITH OTHER ISSUES. BUT HE SAID ADDITIONAL SOVIET MOVES -- PRESUMABLY INCLUDING INTERVENTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WHICH HE DISCUSSED AS A REPORTED THREAT -- WOULD RAISE 'PRESUMPTION THAT WE ARE FACING GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGE INCOMPATIBLE WITH ANY DEFINITION OF DETENTE.'"

5. MICHAEL GETLER OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED FROM BONN THAT EGON BAHR, GENERAL MANAGER OF RULING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, SAID SOVIETS WERE UNMISTAKABLY PREPARING NEW ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS AND SEEMED INTENT ON GIVING BOOST TO STAGNATING POLICY OF DETENTE. BAHR IS JUST BACK FROM VISIT TO MOSCOW WHERE HE MET WITH BREZHNEV.

6. ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, IN WASHINGTON POST COLUMN, SAID SECRET STATE DEPARTMENT WORKING PAPER (DATED MARCH 7 AND TITLED "VIABILITY OF U.S. STRATEGIC DETERRENCE") ASSERTS THAT MINUTEMAN CAN SURVIVE SOVIET ATTACK THROUGH 1980S IF HOTLY OPPOSED PROTOCOL TO SALT TWO IS EXTENDED.... CLAIM THAT SALT TWO CAN SAVE MINUTEMAN ECHOES TWO SECRET STUDIES PREPARED FOR PRESIDENT BY ACADEMICALLY ORIENTED THEORETICIANS. WHITE HOUSE-CONTRACTED

STUDY (CALLED PRESS REPORT AFTER PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE ADVISER FRANK PRESS) DENIED ANY 'IMMINENT' THREAT TO MINUTEMAN, WHICH 'WILL REMAIN SIGNIFICANT SURVIVABLE COMPONENT OF U.S. DETERRENT THROUGHOUT MOST OF 1980S.
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DEFENSE DEPARTMENT-CONTRACTED STUDY (CALLED JASON REPORT) IS EVEN MORE BLUNT: 'PRESENT SOVIET STRATEGIC FORCES POSE NO THREAT TO MINUTEMAN.' RESPONSE BY PENTAGON EXPERTS HAS BEEN SHEER OUTRAGE. INTERNAL MEMORANDA AT DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CONTEND TWO STUDIES REACH 'UNSUBSTANTIATED, OPINIONATED AND UNFOUNDED CONCLUSIONS' AND 'INDULGE IN PROPAGANDA-LIKE STATEMENTS.' DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE NOT MINCED WORDS IN CLOSED-DOOR TESTIMONY ON CAPITOL HILL: MINUTEMAN IS QUICKLY BECOMING VULNERABLE. BUT IS PRESIDENT GETTING WORD? PENTAGON EXPERTS DOUBT IT. AND IF CARTER BELIEVES MINUTEMAN IS TRULY PROTECTED UNDER PROTOCOL OF SALT TWO, HE BECOMES ENTWINED IN MASS OF CONTRADICTIONS FROM WHICH THERE IS NO EASY ESCAPE."

7. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID LETTER RELEASED BY HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE REVEALS THAT THERE IS DISAGREEMENT WITHIN CARTER ADMINISTRATION OVER WHETHER AN AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION FOR COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN SHOULD RULE OUT ALL TESTING. BURT SAID LETTER MADE PUBLIC IS FROM ROBIN BEARD, SAMUEL STRATTON, ROBERT W. DANIEL, JR., AND DAN DANIEL TO ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE. LETTER SAID MAIN REASON FOR INDECISION ON WHETHER PROPOSED TREATY SHOULD PROVIDE FOR COMPLETE BAN OR PERMIT SOME LOW-LEVEL TESTS IS BELIEF AMONG UNIDENTIFIED "SENIOR DEFENSE AND SCIENTIFIC WITNESSES" THAT COMPLETE BAN COULD NOT BE ADEQUATELY POLICIED. BURT SAID THIS VIEW, ACCORDING TO LETTER, IS CONTESTED BY ACDA, STATE DEPARTMENT AND NSC. LETTER SAID ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT AMERICAN DETECTION DEVICES WOULD NOT BE ADEQUATE TO MONITOR LOW-LEVEL SOVIET TESTS. ACCORDINGLY, LETTER SAID, POSITION OF "MILITARY AND TECHNICAL COMMUNITY" IS THAT COMPREHENSIVE ACCORD SHOULD NOT BAN ALL TESTS, BUT ONLY THOSE THAT ARE LARGE ENOUGH TO DETECT. BURT
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SAID LETTER ITSELF HAS STIRRED CONTROVERSY. ACDA, HE REPORTED, SOUGHT TO MAKE LETTER SECRET ON GROUND THAT IT WAS PREJUDICIAL TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOSCOW. "THIS ARGUMENT WAS REJECTED BY COMMITTEE AND LETTER WAS INSERTED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD," BURT ADDED.

8. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION YESTERDAY REFUSED TO ISSUE LICENSE TO EXPORT 17,000 POUNDS OF URANIUM TO INDIA. THOMAS O'TOOLE OF WASHINGTON POST NOTED THIS WAS FIRST TIME AGENCY HAS TURNED DOWN NUCLEAR EXPORT REQUEST. ACTION CAME AS RESULT OF TIE VOTE IN FOUR-MEMBER NRC, WHICH MEANS MATTER MOVES TO WHITE HOUSE WHERE PRESIDENT

CAN ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER APPROVING URANIUM SALE TO INDIA, O'TOOLE REPORTED. CHRISTOPHER

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